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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 25-30, 32, 35-41, 44-47, 49-51 and 57-64 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 25-30, 32, 35-41, 44-47, 49-51 have been amended to clarify the present invention. New claims 57-64 have been added without the addition of new matter. Claims 4, 15-24, 31, 33, 34, 42, 43, 48, and 52-56 have been cancelled without prejudice by this amendment. In the specification, paragraphs [0025]-[0027] have been amended to reflect the prior art legend of Fig. 6 and paragraph [0041] has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. In the drawings, Figure 6 has been amended to add a "Prior Art" label.

Restriction

The original application contained claims 1-56. In the Office Action, the Examiner restricted the claims as follows:

Species 1: Figures 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, and 19
Species 2: Figures 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, and 19
Species 3: Figures 2c, 3c, 4c, 5b and 19
Species 4: Figures 6, 7, 8, and 19
Species 5: Figures 9 and 19
Species 6: Figures 10 and 19
Species 7: Figures 11, 12 and 19
Species 8: Figures 13 and 19
Species 9: Figures 14 and 19
Species 10: Figures 15 and 19
Species 11: Figures 16 and 19
Species 12: Figures 17a, 17b, 17c and 19
Species 13: Figures 18 and 19

Additionally, Applicants believe that Figure 6 should be added to all of the listed species, since it shows the prior art.

Applicants elect Species 3, directed to Figures 2c, 3c, 4c, 5b, 6 and 19, with traverse. Applicants believe that claims 1-3, 5-14, 25-30, 32, 36, 40, 41, 46, 47 and 49 are now generic claims and therefore should be examined irrespective of which Species is elected. Additionally, claim 58 together with the generic claims set forth above are directed to Species 3, which is herein elected. Claims 35, 37-39, 44, 45, 50, 51 and 57-64 have been withdrawn from consideration at this time. However, according to MPEP 809.02, if a generic claim is found allowable, then any claims drawn to non-elected additional species that are embraced by this allowable generic claim will no longer be considered withdrawn and should be considered allowable.

Additionally, Furthermore, Applicants maintain that all of the claims of the present invention are directed to the same invention and should be examined together since they are so closely related as to justify an examination of all of the claims as a single invention. Furthermore, a species restriction is not mandatory merely because the subject matter of the claims may read on separate drawings. In the present application, since the claims are so closely related, the fields of search would necessarily be co-extensive. In light thereof, it is believed that an action on the merits of claims 1-3, 5-14, 25-30, 32, 35-41, 44-47, 49-51 and 57-64 in a single application is in order.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first office action on the merits. In view thereof, no fee is required. For further information on the operation of a SynkDrive, the Examiner is directed to US 5,312,306, which provides a detailed analysis of a SynkDrive.

Conclusion

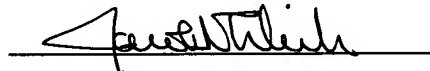
The appropriate fee for an extension of time is enclosed herewith. The present amendments result in the same number of claims or less remaining in the application as was originally filed, therefore it is believed that no fee is necessary. However, please charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, order 6870-154.

If the Examiner has any questions, please call Applicants' Attorney, Jacob N. Erlich at (617) 854-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob N. Erlich", is written over a horizontal line.

Jacob N. Erlich

Reg. No. 24,338

Attorney for Applicant

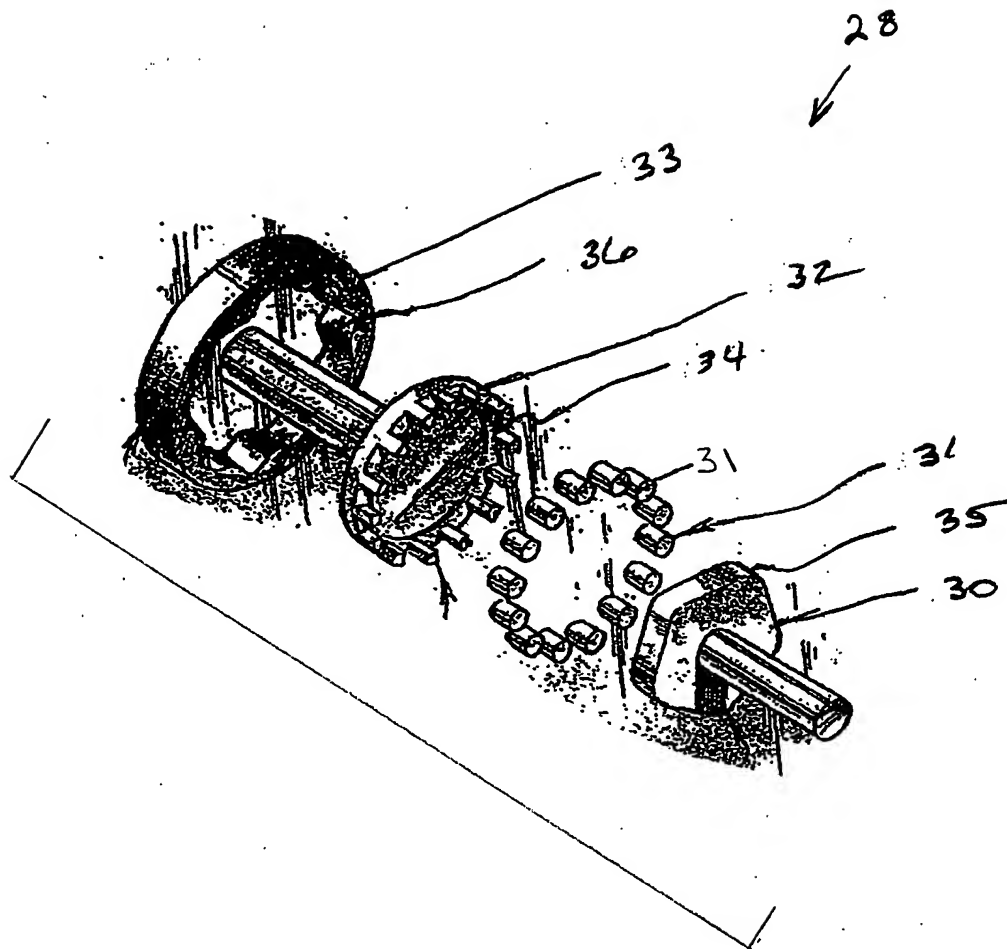


FIGURE 6

Prior Art